

THO IS JUBILANT

Says, in Paris, Pact Is 'Basically Same' as Draft of October

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 24 — Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief representative at the negotiations on a cease-fire, declared today that the agreement initialed yesterday was "basically the same" as the draft reached in October, before the talks collapsed.

The agreement is a "great victory for the Vietnamese people," a jubilant Mr. Tho said.

*Transcript of news conference
by Tho is on Page 22.*

at a crowded press conference at the former Hotel Majestic on the Avenue Kleber, where formal negotiations had been going on since 1968 and where he and Henry A. Kissinger initialed the documents.

He waved in a gesture of triumph as he entered the room, and in the Communist manner joined in the applause that broke out for him in the hall.

'A Moment of Joy'

"It is a moment of joy," Mr. Tho said, "a joy that is shared."

The "victory," he said, "crowned a valiant combat conducted in unity by the army and the people of Vietnam on all fronts at the cost of innumerable sacrifices and privations."

In a prepared statement, Mr. Tho went on to claim "very great victory for the Vietnamese people," "for the solidarity in combat of the three Indochinese people," "for the Socialist countries, the oppressed and all the peace-loving peoples of the world, including the American people who displayed their solidarity

and gave devoted support to the just struggle of our people."

Only on a few points did Mr. Tho specify what had been a compromise and how it had been reached.

He spoke warmly of the American people more than once, and specifically thanked those "in many countries" who

Continued on Page 22, Column 5

made "sacrifices" for the Vietnam peace movement. The triumph, he said, had been over "American imperialism" and "a group of traitors" in Vietnam.

The tone of Mr. Tho's news conference was in sharp contrast to that of Mr. Kissinger's conference at the same time in Washington. Mr. Kissinger went into great detail explaining various points of the agreement and the way the tense talks had swung through "mountains and ravines."

Mr. Tho stressed instead his satisfaction with results and his confidence of further "victorious achievements of the Vietnamese people's task in the new period."

On the three-segment National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, for example, Mr. Tho indicated that he and Mr. Kissinger had solved a tough issue by just ignoring it.

Hanoi wanted to call the council a "structure of power," he said. Saigon, with United States backing, objected that it would almost amount to an enforced coalition government and Mr. Kissinger proposed that it be called "an administrative structure." So both phases were dropped, along with detailed provisions for the composition of the council, according to Mr. Tho.

"The importance of the body is defined by its task and the way it proceeds with its work," Mr. Tho said.

The texts of the peace documents were distributed only after Mr. Tho had arrived and begun to speak, so newsmen had little chance to read them before it came time for questions. In that way, Mr. Tho avoided much detailed discussion on the history of the negotiations.

But he took the stand that the outcome was not different from the October agreement on any major issues and that the bombing of North Vietnam in the second half of December had not changed anything.

"These bombings failed completely," Mr. Tho said. "These bombings in no way helped the negotiations. On the contrary, they contributed to delay."

He took issue with Mr. Kissinger's statement that talks had broken down in mid-December.

"At the time," he said, "the negotiations were in the process of developing, and I had returned home to report to my Government."

"The first waves of bombing took place a few hours after my arrival in Hanoi," he said.

Mr. Tho listed what he considered the 13 cardinal points

of the accords from Hanoi's viewpoint. Above all, he emphasized, the documents form "a juridical base of great import."

Summarized, his points were as follows:

¶United States recognition of the "independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity" of Vietnam, the wording in the 1954 Geneva accords, which the United States refused to sign. Mr. Tho said the clauses "guarantee the independence and liberty of our country, which we have just reconquered after many years of struggle."

¶Cease-fire and United States removal or deactivation of all mines in the North.

¶Withdrawal of all United States troops.

¶Prohibition of reintroduction of troops in South Vietnam and limitation of arms shipments to replacement.

¶Release of prisoners.

¶Recognition of what he called "the actual situation" in Vietnam, the existence of "two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and other political forces." This phrase

does not appear in any of the documents. Presumably, it is one of the key "interpretations" that Mr. Kissinger said had been read into the formal record of the talks.

¶Prohibition of all reprisals.

¶Guarantee of democratic liberties, "rights which have never before been applied in South Vietnam," he said.

¶Establishment of the council of reconciliation on a basis of "mutual respect and reciprocal nonelimination," doubtless another "interpretation."

¶Settlement of "the question of Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam" by the two South Vietnamese administration "without foreign interference."

¶Redefinition of the North-South demarcation line in a way that stresses its "provisional" nature and opens it to civilian traffic.

¶United States acceptance of responsibility to furnish reconstruction aid to North Vietnam.

¶Reassertion of the Geneva agreements on Laos and Cambodia.

Asked by a Polish corre-

spondent if he thought the agreement would end "the last war in the world," Mr. Tho said crisply, "I am a Communist and according to Marxist-Leninist theories, so long as imperialism persists in the world there will still be wars."

But for his own country, he proclaimed proud assurance. He predicted "an extremely favorable evolution" and said that attempts by "reactionary forces to sabotage" that development were "bound to fail."

"The Vietnamese people will advance to the reunification of the country," Mr. Tho said. "This is the necessary advance of history. No force can prevent this advance."